Web Page Evaluation Checklist

Remember, anyone, with or without credentials, can post information on the internet. Use the following guidelines in order to rapidly assess the validity and credibility of any website without knowing about the topic that is on the website.

Name of Site: _____

URL: _____

Step	*Checklist*	*Description (what might this mean?)*
1. Check the URL		
a. Check the domain	☐ .com ☐ .org ☐ .edu ☐ .gov ☐ other	
b. Who owns the website? Does the owner of the information make sense?	Domain -	
c. Is it an individual's website?	☐ Yes ☐ No	If yes, does the individual have credentials in this field?
2. Scan the main page for:		
a. Author(s)	☐ Name ☐ Email	
b. Author's or owner's credentials	☐ Yes ☐ No	
c. Dates	☐ Yes ☐ No	Is it current?
d. Ads	☐ Yes ☐ No	Are they relevant?
e. Disclaimers	☐ Yes ☐ No	Why?
3. Quality Indications		
a. Is this a primary or secondary source?	☐ Primary ☐ Secondary	
a1. For primary sites, is the research well documented?	☐ Yes ☐ No	
a2. For secondary sites, are the sources well documented (including relevant links)?	☐ Yes ☐ No	
b. Are there links to outside sources? Do they seem credible?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Yes ☐ No	
c. Does the site provide a variety of viewpoints?	☐ Yes ☐ No	
4. Overall?		
a. Why does it appear that the site was put on the web?	☐ Informational ☐ Explanatory ☐ Persuasion ☐ Sales ☐ Disclosure	
b. Do you see threats to the credibility of the website?		

Adapted from Barker (2004)